

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JUL 06 2006

INCE 1877  
29, 2006  
VOL. 130  
No. 26



## Page surprised, 'taken aback' by election

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP and local reports) — Frank Page, the new president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), declared in his first news conference a commitment to broadening the involvement of Southern Baptists in decision-making opportunities while clearly affirming the conservative resurgence that resulted in leadership changes throughout the SBC.

"I do not believe the convention elected me to somehow undo the conservative resurgence. That is not who I am, not what they've asked for, not what they want," Page said. Instead, the soft-spoken pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., said he believes the vote for him was a wakeup call from grassroots Southern Baptists to focus on the Cooperative Program (CP) channel of missions support and to broaden the base of involvement in the convention.

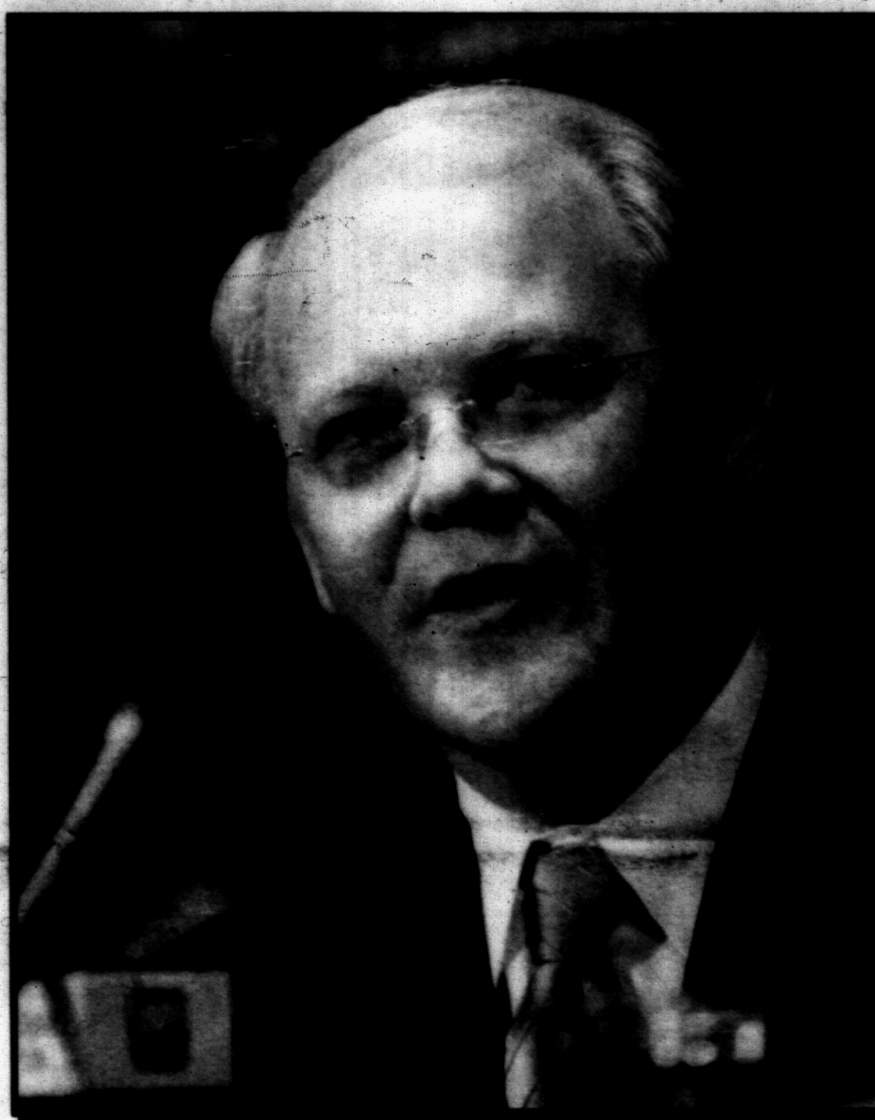
Garnering more than twice as many votes as either of the other candidates, Page admitted his surprise at being elected. "I am a little taken aback by this," he told reporters, noting his lack of national notoriety.

"One of the things this says is the Southern Baptist Convention belongs to His people and to Him — and by that I mean people have spoken a powerful message," Page said. "It's a clear call from the people of the Southern Baptist Convention that we want to strengthen our work together through the Cooperative Program as we expand involvement to reach out to godly, conservative men and women who perhaps have not been utilized in the past."

Declaring his commitment to tap "a reservoir of strong wisdom and ability," Page said he will draw from younger and older leaders who serve small, medium and large churches "who perhaps have just simply been overlooked." Page said he believes messengers are calling on him to place an emphasis "not on a personality, but a cause of evangelism and missions that we do together."

### SBC appointments

In responding to a question by Kentucky Western Recorder Editor Trennis Henderson, Page clarified the criteria he will use in making appointments to the SBC committees over which he has influence. Page reiterated the three conditions he offered prior to the election, while adding one more.



NEW LEADER — Frank Page, pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., speaks to reporters after being elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention on June 13, the first day of the convention's two-day meeting in Greensboro, N.C. (BP photo by Van Payne)

"One of the criteria for involvement is to have a sweet spirit," Page said. "I don't have time to deal with grouchy people anymore." Secondly, he would seek men and women who believe in winning the world to Jesus, an attitude Page described as "an evangelist's heart."

Page's third condition addressed a commitment to biblical inerrancy, the doctrine most often identified with the conservative resurgence. "I believe in the integrity of the Word of God. I want that very, very clear," Page said, alluding to a statement by the Florida pastor who nominated him.

Forrest Pollock of Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Fla., in nominating Page, affirmed Page's conviction on inerrancy and said the Carolina pastor would look for men and women who had not previously been involved.

"I'm not trying to undo a conservative movement that I have supported all of these years," Page told reporters.

### Political endorsements

Florida Baptist Witness Executive Editor James A. Smith Sr. asked Page about his future relationship with SBC entity leaders like seminary presidents Paige Patterson (Southwestern), R. Albert Mohler Jr. (Southern), and Danny Akin (Southeastern), who all endorsed Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd's presidential bid. Floyd came under scrutiny when it was revealed that his church, First Church in Springdale gave 27% to CP in 2005.

Page, whose church gave 12.1% to CP in 2005, said it is worth noting those leaders had indicated their support for another candidate before he announced he would allow his nomination. "So I have no doubt they all would have endorsed me if they had had that opportunity," Page joked.

"To this point [they have] been nothing but Christian gentlemen to me and I expect them to continue," Page added.

When pressed as to whether political endorsements are appropriate by entity leaders, Page said there is the potential of hurting an institution if a substantial number of the constituents disagreed. "You can't tell people what to do. You can advise or encourage. I do think it would be best for entity heads not to endorse specific candidates," Page said.

Page added he supports Floyd's call for an emphasis on spiritual renewal. Such revival will lead to support for missions, CP, and "a spike in evangelism," Page said.

### Cooperative Program

South Carolina Biblical Recorder Editor Don Kirkland noted that Page had not insisted on "a strict 10% rule" regarding CP giving, then asked for his position on a report that messengers had approved regarding the need for increased CP gifts from churches.

"I would rather not use a specific percentage amount because my entire point has been to broaden involvement, not to restrict involvement," Page said. "At the same time, I do believe a church's giving to the Cooperative Program is a serious and an obvious expression of its support for doing joint missions."

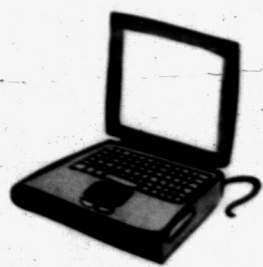
Page spoke of a friend he described as "a five-point Calvinist" who led his church to move from giving two percent to eight percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. "Would I support appointment of such a person? Yes. Does he reach that wonderful 10% mark? No, but it shows a serious sacrificial, missional mindset of giving to the Cooperative Program."

"I do not advocate a specific amount, but heard both sides of that this morning and understand some people wanted teeth in that," Page added, referring to a discussion of a motion to suggest that convention leaders come from churches that give at least 10% through CP. "Whether people believe in a specific amount, they have said the Cooperative Program is important. I think that's the reason I'm here."

### 'Defining moment'

"I do think it is a defining moment," he stated, insisting he will "indeed echo a deep appreciation of the past — the sacrifices men and women have made."





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H. Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Matt Broome  
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING  
Dana Richardson  
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS  
Don McGregor

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Mack Amis, McComb  
James Beasley, Crystal Springs  
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis  
Rick Henson, Brandon  
Beverly Pylon, Natchez  
Billy Watkins, Madison  
Dana Richardson, secretary

**Postmaster:**  
Send changes of address to: The  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 26  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

# The blood of the patriots

I wish my son could have known his great-great uncles, Vernon Lee Howell and George Baskerville "Buddy" Howell. Farm boys who had never been out of the Mississippi Delta, the brothers fought their way across Europe from D-Day right up to the end of the World War II. Interestingly, I never heard of their war exploits from them but rather from their elder sister, my grandmother.

Like soldiers of any era, they saw and heard and felt things that no human being should ever have to endure. Although they never talked about it, we all knew that they had seen God's highest creation stoop to its lowest. They knew they were fighting for a noble cause bigger than just themselves, so they endured the hardships and privations and loss of good friends in order to see the war through to ultimate and unconditional victory.

The Howell brothers came home from the war to lead very different lives. Vernon Lee settled not far from where he was born in Quitman County. He married, raised a family, lived the American Dream for which he had fought so hard, and was buried in the Delta soil from whence he sprang so many years before.

Buddy didn't fare quite as well. Haunted by the images of war, he probably developed what we would recognize today as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He too tried his hand at marriage but failed. After drifting through a series of jobs and living with relatives for periods of time, he eventually retreated to the quiet backwoods of Montgomery County where he lived out the rest of his days with his beloved dogs.

## Independence Day



The Howell brothers led divergent lives, but I was proud to know both of them. Like only a young schoolboy could, I dreamed of being just like them and helping to save the world at its darkest hour. I could see myself alongside them, fighting the good fight for the liberty and freedom for everyone. They were real men, in my eyes.

Uncle Vernon Lee and Uncle Buddy have been gone now for many years. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs calculates that U.S. veterans of World War II are dying at the rate of about 1,100 per day, every day of the year. The department also estimates that fully 75% of the American warriors of that era have already passed away.

Those statistics trouble me, because I have always felt safe as long as they were around. I always believed they could handle anything that came up. I always knew they would stand between me and any enemy, because they already had. They had proven themselves.

However, I realized one day that every American generation, from those before World War II to present day, has had heroes who were willing to stand in the gap for us. The Korean and Vietnam Wars produced the same mettle, and the volunteers of the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq have the same spirit of commitment to this country and its ideals.

It made me feel safe once again.

In a November 1787 letter to William Stephens Smith, a friend who fought in the Revolutionary War and later served in the U.S. Congress, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

How true, but sad. Such is the state of human nature. Until the Lord comes again, there will apparently always be wars. Thus, noble warriors will always be needed. Thank God there have always been great men and women in every generation willing to sacrifice everything for us, so we may enjoy the riches of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and — not least — freedom to worship God as we are led and not at the point of a gun.

As we approach this upcoming Independence Day, let us all be thankful for the brave soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen standing guard even today in some of the most desolate and dangerous places in the world, so we can enjoy cookouts and fireworks and all the freedoms America has to offer.

To the memories of Uncle Vernon Lee and Uncle Buddy, I say rest in peace; your legacy is in good hands.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Religion and politics do mix

By Philip Gunn, member  
Morrison Heights Church, Clinton

At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged. Any attempt to level and discard all religion would have been viewed with universal indignation. ... "It [religion] must be considered as the foundation on which the whole structure rests. In this age, there can be no substitute for Christianity; that, in its general principles, is the great conservative element on which we must rely for the purity and permanence of free institutions."

That was the religion of the founders of the Republic, and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants.

These were the words of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee in 1853 in discussing the meaning of the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution. We see that almost 80 years after our nation was founded, our leaders still understood that our nation was founded on Christian principles. History is replete with evidence that our Founding Fathers intended for our nation to be a Christian nation.

We are indeed fortunate to live in a nation where we enjoy religious freedom. We must not

forget God's grace and protection in allowing us to live in a nation where we can worship Him freely and without persecution. We must also never forget the sacrifices others have made for us to provide us with these freedoms. I hope you fly your flag proudly on July 4.

However, it seems that Christian influence on our society has diminished and that attacks on the Christian faith have increased. To reverse this trend, Christians must get actively involved in our political process. We must become pro-active, not re-active. We must elect Christian leaders who will advance Christian principles and who share the sentiments expressed above.

I am completing my first term as a state representative.

My experience at the State Capitol has shown me how we, as Christians, can have an influence on our political process and shape the direction of our state and nation. Christians make a difference when they do the following things:

- **Register to vote.** Enough said!
- **Pray!** Pray for insight into the issues. Pray for the candidates. Pray for God to call Christians to public service.
- **Research the candidates.** If I don't know anything about the candidate, I cannot make an informed vote. Are they Christian? What are their qualifications? For what issues will they be fighting? Why are they running?
- **Research the issues.** What issues are important to me? What issues will be debated?

What is my position on the issues? Does this candidate share my view on the issues?

• **Elect Christians.** In this nation, we have the privilege of electing our leaders. The question then becomes, who do you want to follow? Christians are not perfect, but I would much rather follow someone who is trying to follow Christ than someone who is not.

• **Go vote.** Enough said!

• **Stay informed.** The Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is a great resource to stay abreast of developments at the Capitol. Read the newspapers. Listen to talk radio. Watch how your elected leaders vote on important issues. The Mississippi Center for Public Policy in Jackson posts the votes of legislators on its website. This is an easy way to keep up with how your legislators vote on issues important to you.

• **Realize this** — your elected leaders are determining the environment in which you and your children are going to live. That should be enough motivation to get involved.

Gunn represents District 56 in the Mississippi House of Representatives.



# Welch implores SBC to stretch for baptisms

Preaching from the John 6:1-14 account of the young boy whose five loaves and two fishes ultimately fed 5,000 people, Welch often repeated the word "more."

After reading the passage aloud, Welch said Jesus looked at the crowd and wanted more souls to save. "Isn't it a wonderful thought that Jesus always has an eye for the crowd?" he asked. "He's looking out for the multitude."

Revealing his concern that Southern Baptists aren't looking at the multitudes of non-Christians with the same Christlike compassion because of a waning confidence in the soul-saving power of God, Welch said, "We must rediscover our confidence in the power of God's Gospel to immediately and radically convert and change anybody, anytime, at any place when they will trust Jesus."

Welch, a Vietnam veteran who was wounded in action, recently announced his upcoming retirement from his 32-year pastorate at First Church in Daytona Beach, Fla.

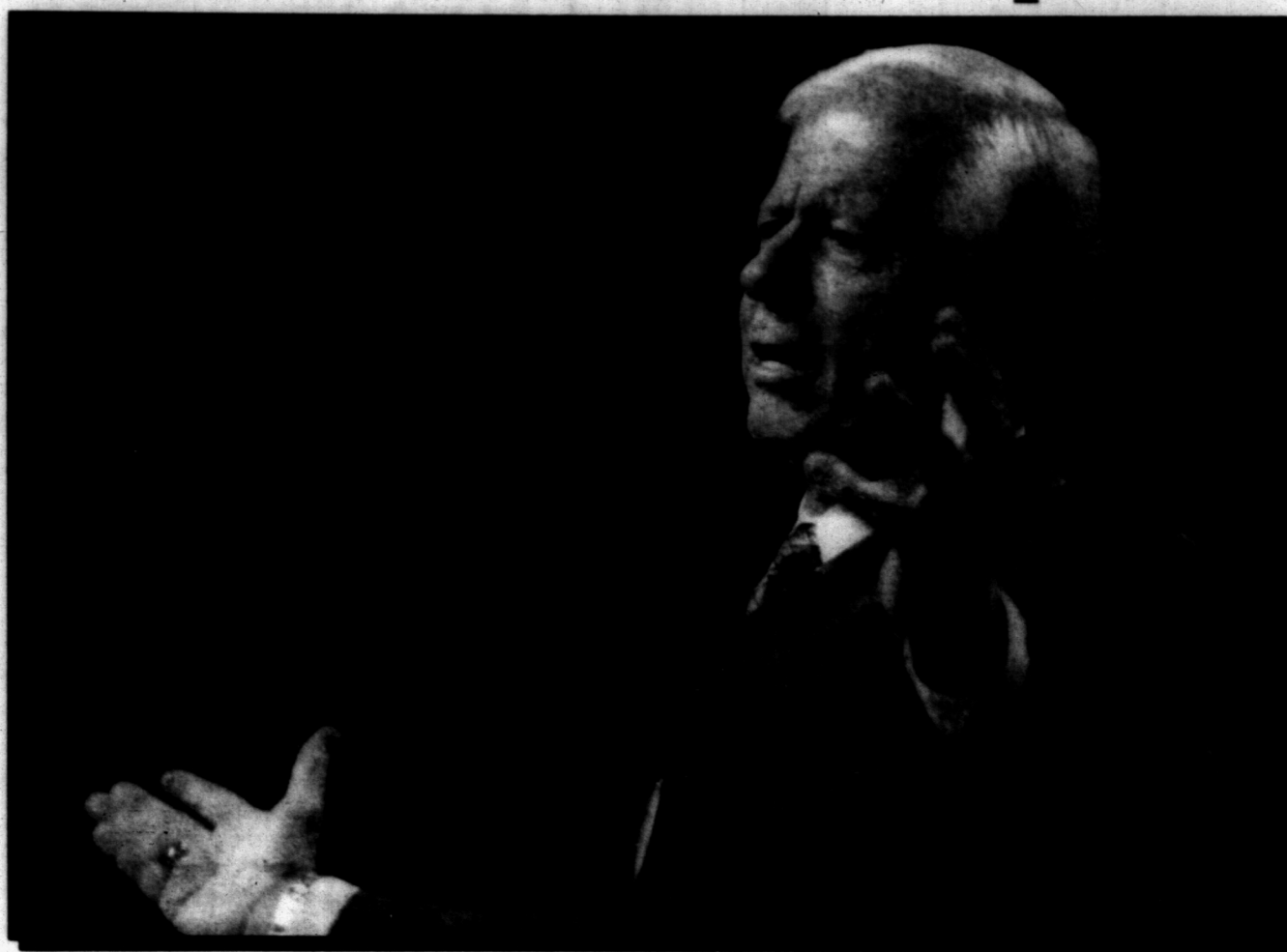
He said some Southern Baptists demonstrate a flagging confidence in God's ability to transform someone's life instantly by thinking that lost people "might get more fully converted" if they came to a series of classes and filled in all the blanks in a workbook over a period of several weeks.

"But that is not true," Welch said. While affirming all efforts to bring people to Christ, he said the prevalence of such emphases on convoluted salvation processes in SBC churches is evidence "we somehow have become disconnected from the belief and confidence in our heart that God can bring it all on at one moment at one time at one place — the power of the Gospel to change a soul."

Since Jesus had asked the disciples about food for the crowd, Welch said that Jesus was looking for more from Christians. "We've got to do more going, and we absolutely have to do more giving," he said.

Reflecting on a conversation he'd had with one of the International Mission Board's regional leaders overseas, Welch recounted his asking the leader what was the most difficult aspect of serving God halfway around the world.

"The hardest part by far [is to] see the multitudes of millions out there without the Gospel, we see people groups beyond number almost, and we see multiplied millions dying without Jesus, to look at what we have, the personnel, the provision and the money, and realize it's not near enough," Welch recounted. "The hardest part [is] having to say, This group does not get Jesus now. This million will not hear the Gospel. This country will not know about our Lord. The hardest part, Brother, Bobby, is saying no to the multiplied



Welch

millions of lost who are ready to say yes to Jesus."

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am telling you this today: That ought not be true. That should not be so," Welch said. "Everybody ought to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whatever it takes in our giving and in our going we must do it without any more delay. We must," Welch pleaded.

Noting he wasn't picking up on any contemporary theme, Welch said the themes of giving and going have been "running through my life for 40 years. I didn't get up a message. I'm a man that God got up and sent here to deliver a message."

"The Baptists' best bounce for their Baptist buck is through CP," Welch said. "With the Cooperative Program, everyone can. Your dollar works seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, all around the world, non-stop; even when you're snoring, asleep, it's still working."

Reflecting on recent issues regarding the Cooperative Program, Welch said, "Not one single, solitary soul has said, 'Less.' ... All have agreed we ought to do more. And we should do more. And we can do more. And we will do more. For the sake of souls and the glory of God, more, more, more," Welch said amid a rising tide of applause.

When Jesus asked for food to feed the thousands, one disciple said, "There is a lad, here," said Welch, reading verse 9, "which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

"You looked at the Lord. Christ wanted more. Look at the lad. The child had more. It wasn't easy to recognize immediately,

but he had more," Welch said.

While Christ is calling for a lot, the disciples are majoring on a little, he continued. "If you'd listen long enough, probably somebody would've said, 'Our situation is different here, Lord. You don't know how tough it is. We just got so little. We're in a small place, small town, small church, small pews, small Bible — small print."

"It's amazing how we disciples want to drag the crowd off to a little. But Jesus, here, He's calling for a lot. Isn't that wonderful? But the disciples are emphasizing a little. And all the while all God needed was a lad. Just a lad. Just a lad," Welch added.

Welch said that a few months ago he'd read this verse about a lad in the early morning and almost got thrown out of his own home by wife Maudellen. "I said, 'Hallelujah,'" Welch recalled, screaming. "There's a lad, here! There's a lad, here! Praise God! There is a lad, here!"

O, what dynamic declaration of God. There is a lad, here!"

"Wonder where all the men were?" Welch asked. "There were 5,000 of them hanging out there."

Referencing the politics associated with church and denominational life, Welch asked, "I wonder if they were busy arranging their seats to see who could sit at the leadership table quicker? I wonder if they were fighting to keep [others] out of the seats at the leadership table?"

"I want to tell you ladies and gentlemen, you can fool around, you men and women, and God'll turn it over to a lad if you aren't careful. There is a lad, here. That's what made the lad handy. He was paying attention. He's here. He's not preoccupied."

Welch said he'd been wondering about Southern Baptists and that if "we'd spend less time on these websites that we'd be able to spend more time witnessing."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

A total of 254 recreational vehicles packing 567 people spend June 18-21 on the parking lot of the civic center in Greenwood for the 25th annual Southern Baptist Campers on Mission Rally.

### 20 years ago

New Orleans Seminary selects two Mississippians as Distinguished Alumni: Frank W. Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Claude L. Howe Jr., seminary professor.

### 60 years ago

Members of First Church, Tylertown, vote to start an educational building construction project after a weeklong revival results in overflow crowds each Sunday. Score of people bring their own chairs and sit on the church porch during services.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 29, 2006

VOL. 130

No. 26



## AGE SPOTS

Everybody I know is aging, and almost everybody I know is aging awkwardly. How so? Well, most of the young folks are wanting to speed up the process, rush it along, hurry it up, and get on to be six, 13, or 21 years old. Then somewhere along the line, and I am not sure where it shifts gears, they start trying to slow the process down not necessarily to return to being a teenager but at least not to rush so quickly to the end. Strange how it seems as though we can't quite get in sync with where we are.

The other day a fellow was showing me his hands and some unusual coloration that had just popped up on the back of his hand. It concerned him. He went to the doctor to see what was going on, and said, "Doctor, when I was a kid they used to call these age spots." The doctor looked at him and said, "We still do!" I guess it is not supposed to be happening to us. Let me talk to you about age spots for just a moment.

Aging is not a bad spot in which to be, regardless of your age. Youthful aging is not bad for it is filled with anticipation,

hope, and new adventures. While old aging is not all together bad either because it has a few new adventures itself, it also holds some wisdom that reminds you there are some adventures that you do not want to repeat.

If you are in a spot in your aging process that you are content, enjoying meaningful relationships, have enough challenges to keep you alert, and enough calmness to keep you at ease, that is a good age spot. We have made a lot more of age than we probably should. We generally associate age with maturity. There are some ways that is probably true and many ways that is not at all factual. I have known people who were young and their wisdom had no doubt come from some-

where else. I have known people who were up in years who still processed decisions and experiences in life with a childish, kindergarten attitude. So whatever age you are right now, if you are able to process experiences, keeping your eyes on a compass of rightness before God, and maintaining healthy, wholesome relationships around you, that is also a good age spot in which to be.

Often people think that folks arrive at old age when they can see farther back than they can see before them. That may sound correct, but it is not actually true. The truth is that every one of us, even the six-year-old, can see a lot farther back than we can see what is before us. Sometimes looking before you gets you to the place where you

can see God's eternal plans in a little sharper focus, heaven becomes more precious, and you realize there may not be too many more days at best.

It was my honor to know Rev. and Mrs. Lawrence Riley. In fact, it was my blessing to be their pastor the last few years of Brother Riley's life and then Mrs. Riley outlived him by some years. Mrs. Riley was in her 90s and struggling with some health issues when one of the deacons from First Church, Amory, was visiting her and told her that he was praying for her. In her cute yet stern way, she looked at him and snapped, "Don't you pray me out of heaven." She had been prepared to go for a long time, but now struggling with some of the issues she had and having lived a full life, she was getting closer to being ready to go. That is not a bad age spot, either.

Here is the blessing about aging: If you are in the spot where Jesus wants you to be and He is walking with you, it is a good age spot.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

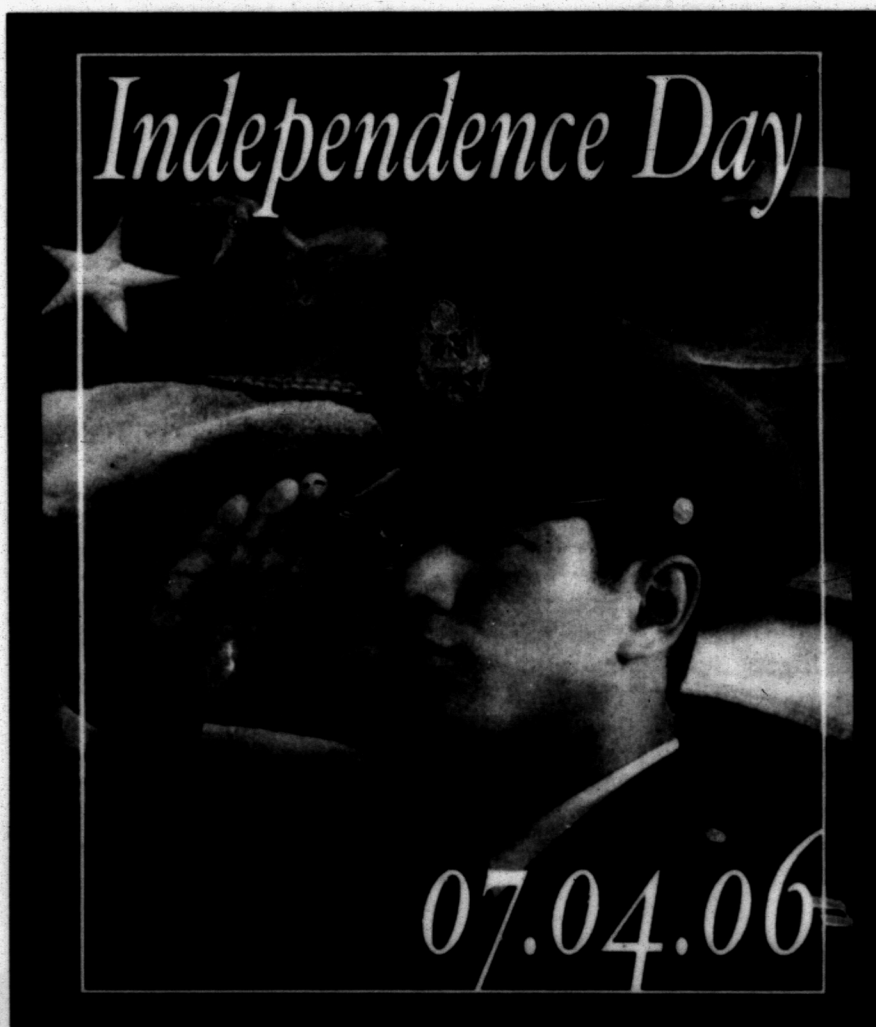
"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Is Your Van Safe? Send for a FREE CD!

Carpenter Bus Sales, the exclusive Bus Provider for LifeWay Church Buses, not only sells buses...we keep up with safety issues, legislation, regulations and insurance considerations...so you can make an informed purchase!



America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

## GROWING CHURCHES

AUGUST 3-5

CAMP GARAYWA  
CLINTON, MISS.

CALL CONFERENCE OFFICE AT MBCB

**800.748.1651**

OR EMAIL [FSIMMONS@MBCB.ORG](mailto:FSIMMONS@MBCB.ORG)

### Sessions:

Discipleship/Bible Drills • Small Churches  
Sunday School • Women's Ministry  
Deacon Training • Youth Ministry  
Biblical Navigator • Family ministry

**Deadline for registration  
(commuters), Wed. July 13th!!**

You Have  
Lost Money

And want to recover losses  
**We Can Help!**  
with a guaranteed  
return of principle  
Equity Indexed Annuity

**13.2%**

First Year Guarantee  
O'Mire Financial Services  
**1.800.844.3254**  
**601.957.3841**



# Resolutions receive messengers' approval at SBC

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — Messengers to the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., approved 15 resolutions June 14, including one that sought to balance faithful enforcement of the United States' immigration laws with compassionate outreach to all immigrants.

Unlike recent years, the convention required both the morning and evening sessions to act on all the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee.

The committee might have completed its work in the morning had it not been for a lengthy debate on a resolution regarding the use of alcoholic beverages. The messengers eventually passed a recommendation by about a four-fifths majority not only opposing the production and consumption of alcohol but urging the exclusion of Southern Baptists who drink from the convention's boards, committees, and entities.

The resolution on the "crisis of illegal immigration" urged the federal government to secure the country's borders and enforce its laws, including those that penalize employers who "knowingly hire" illegal immigrants or treat them unjustly. It is estimated about 12 million illegal immigrants are in the United States.

The measure, which was adopted in a nearly unanimous vote, also encouraged Southern Baptists and other Christians and their churches to reach out to immigrants regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality or "legal status" through sharing the Gospel; implementing need-meeting ministries; starting English classes "on a massive scale"; and encouraging the achievement of citizenship or legal status.

Though the resolution called for Congress to act swiftly on



ADDRESSING SBC — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (right) enjoys the enthusiastic applause of Southern Baptist messengers after her June 14 appearance at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. She was welcomed by outgoing SBC President Bobby Welch, who is also the retiring pastor of First Church in Daytona Beach. (BP photo by Van Payne)

immigration reform, it did not endorse a specific piece of legislation. The Senate and House have passed widely divergent bills that will have to be reconciled in order for a measure to go to President Bush.

"Obviously, this is a complex problem, and there are a number of opinions among Southern Baptists at this time," Kenyn Cureton, the SBC Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations and liaison to the committee, said at a news conference after the resolutions report was completed. "I don't think there's a consensus about the specificity of the action that is needed to solve these problems."

In addition to the resolutions on immigration and alcohol use, the messengers approved

in unanimous or nearly unanimous votes measures:

- expressing displeasure with U.S. senators who recently failed to support a constitutional amendment to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman and calling on the House to approve the proposal.

- affirming Christian teachers in the public schools and encouraging Southern Baptists to provide a godly influence on school systems through such means as election to school boards.

- renewing Southern Baptists' commitment to stewardship of God's creation while opposing solutions dependent on "questionable science."

- condemning all human species-altering technologies, including the creation of human-animal hybrids.

- urging all school systems to accommodate off-campus Bible instruction during educational hours.

- voicing gratitude for the confirmation of federal judges and justices who respect the Constitution and encouraging the continued nomination and confirmation of such judges.

- calling on China to accord refugee status to North Koreans who have fled their country's tyrannical regime and encouraging the United States and other countries to accept North Koreans as refugees.

- urging the disbanding of the government-supported militias in the Darfur region of Sudan, international trials for "perpetrators of the atrocities" in the area and multi-national aid to the area.

- affirming the service of bivocational, volunteer and part-time pastors and other Gospel ministers.

- encouraging Southern Baptists to pray for the president and all members of the U.S. military.

- thanking Southern Baptists and other volunteers who served in disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

- expressing gratitude for the ministry at Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center on its 100th anniversary.

- thanking Southern Baptists in the Greensboro region and others who helped make this year's convention possible.

All resolutions express the views of the messengers meeting at a particular convention but are not binding on churches and the entities of the SBC.

Members of the Resolutions Committee were Chairman T.C. French, pastor of Jefferson Church in Baton Rouge, La.; Ida South, member, First Church, Mathiston, Miss.; Robin Hadaway, member of Pleasant Valley Church, Kansas City, Mo., and associate professor of missions at Midwestern Seminary; Gerald Harris, member of Ephesus Church in Atlanta and editor of The Christian Index, newsjournal of the Georgia Convention; Martha Lawley, member of First Southern Church, Worland, Wyo.; Dwayne Mercer, pastor, First Church, Oviedo, Fla.; Darrell Orman, pastor, First Church, Stuart, Fla.; Frank Page, pastor, First Church, Taylors, S.C., and newly elected president of the convention; Forrest Pollock, pastor, Bell Shoals Church, Brandon, Fla.; and Mike Stone, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Blackshear, Ga.

## Rankin, IMB thank messengers for Lottie Moon Offering mark

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — Hot eggs, bacon, biscuits, and grits greeted dozens of Southern Baptist messengers on June 14 in Greensboro, N.C., at the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Celebration Breakfast.

Hosted by the International Mission Board (IMB), the breakfast is a way to thank churches for their faithful support of the Lottie Moon offering, every penny of which is used to support more than 5,000 IMB missionaries. Though 2005's offering set a record, IMB President Jerry Rankin opened the event with a solemn reminder.

"Four years ago we found ourselves in a crisis with a severe shortfall in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," said Rankin, a Mississippi native and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. "For the first time since the Depression years of the '30s we actually had to defer the appointment of missionaries."

"As we sought the Lord, we were convicted of three things: that God did not want us to trust in our own resources and the affluence of Southern Baptists but [to] walk by faith ... He also taught us that we needed to be better stewards of the resources that we did have ... He also convicted us that if this crisis could be used to awaken churches to the priority of giving to missions ... it would be worth it to go through a year or two of austerity."

"For the last three years we have seen a sustained level of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering that is absolutely phenomenal, reaching a new record this year of \$137,939,677," Rankin continued.

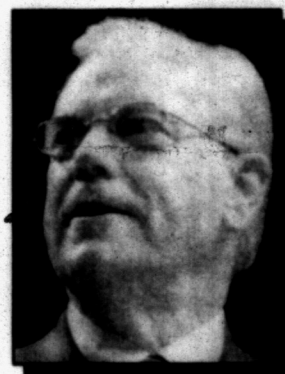
The \$137.9 million marks a three percent increase over 2004's \$133.9 million Lottie Moon offering and a 1.3% percent gain over the old record of \$136.2 million set in 2003.

Rankin asked Bryant Wright to pray before the breakfast, noting that the church where he is pastor, Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., gave more than \$659,000 to the offering, earning it the No. 1 spot on the list of 2005's top giving churches.

During the breakfast Rankin recognized Kanoot Midkiff, minister of missions and senior adults at Mount Vernon Church in Boone, N.C. Midkiff's church earned the honor of the highest Lottie Moon giving per capita: \$243.73 for each of Mount Vernon's 827 members, a grand total of more than \$201,000.

Midkiff credits volunteer mission trips, personal relationships with overseas missionaries, and the IMB's multimedia resource materials for helping make Mount Vernon's Lottie Moon offering so successful. He said Eloise, an IMB staff member who stars in The Task video series for youth, is especially popular.

"Working with senior adults, to see somebody from every generation on mission, not just from birth but all the way to the grave, leaving a legacy of faith — this is the way our folks witness somebody who's investing her life ... Our youth really enjoy her, our senior adults tolerate her, and our pastor just loves her," Midkiff said.



Rankin

Rankin also praised the thousands of smaller churches in the Southern Baptist Convention who gave sacrificially. "Of course we're always thrilled to get reports of phenomenally large gifts, often from the largest churches of our convention," he said. "But I can assure you that what thrills our heart most are the testimonies from many of the smaller churches that give far beyond their reasonable means."

Gustavo Vasquez, pastor of Iglesia El Calvario in Seymour, Ind., joined Rankin on stage to talk about how his 47-member congregation managed to give more than \$10,000 to the Lottie Moon offering last year.

Vasquez explained that he had asked his church what their Lottie Moon goal should be. Someone shouted \$500, Vasquez said, and then \$1,000. More shouts came, and suddenly the goal had hit \$6,000.

"That was a scary thing... because the year before it was \$1,500," Vasquez said. "But then we said, 'Let's not set a goal; let's let God set a goal in our hearts.' We prayed about it, and we let the Holy Spirit tell us how much God wanted us to give."

One woman in the congregation gave up two weeks of paychecks; another man took a second job so he could contribute his offering. Vasquez said the Lord honored Iglesia Bautista's sacrifice, returning to some members more than three times what they gave.

"Our motivation is God Himself — He has passion for the lost souls, and He has placed in our heart the same passion for the unreached people," Vasquez said.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. RA Recognition, Osyka Church, Osyka



2. Century of Christian Service, Derma Church, Derma



3. Bible Drill, Salem Church, Carthage



4. James, Clinton and wife Wanda, Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia

1. Osyka Church, Osyka, recently held its annual recognition service honoring mission groups. Pictured are Royal Ambassadors who received advancement patches and certificates for completing mission action projects during the year.

2. Derma Church, Derma, celebrated a century of Christian service on May 28. Pictured are (from left) former pastors Chris Aldridge and Everette Martin, current pastor John Warren, and former pastors Jim Bain and Glen Putman.

3. Salem Church, Carthage, recently recognized its 2006 Bible Drill participants.

4. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, presented James Clinton (center) with a certificate to bivocational ministry. Presenting the certificate to Clinton was pastor Billy James (left) while Clinton's wife Wanda looks on.

5. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, recently recognized its 2006 Bible Drill participants. Kayla Smith and Danny Boudreaux served as leaders.

6. First Church, Houston, recently recognized its 2006 Bible Drill participants. Amy Alford served as leader.

7. Friendship Church, Sturgis, recently honored their 2006 high school seniors. Pictured are (from left) Kevin Crittendon, Jorga Edmonds, Blake Wilson, Lauren Pinnix, and Mindy Whitaker.

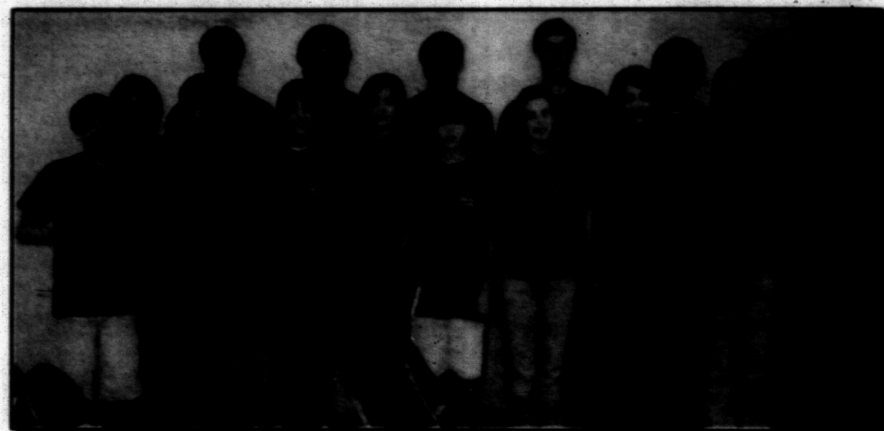
8. Janice Church (Perry Association) will host a Liberty in Christ block party on July 2 from 6 p.m. until sunset. Free food, games, and live music. Pettis Family Singers, guests. For more information, call (601) 598-2077.

9. Pocohontas Church, Jackson, will home Embrace in a free concert on July 2 at 6:30 p.m. Love offering will be taken. For more information, contact [pbc@pocohontasbaptistchurch.org](mailto:pbc@pocohontasbaptistchurch.org).

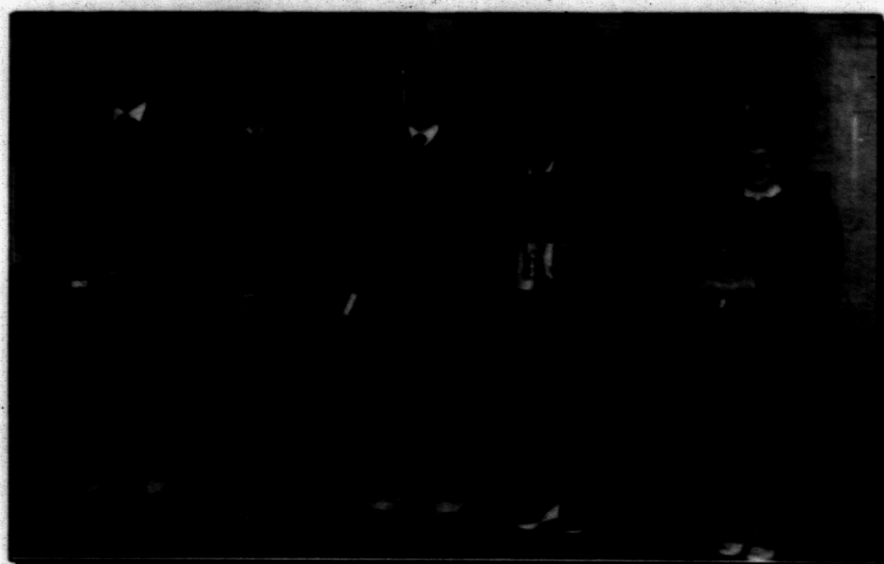
10. Temple Church, Moss Point, will host A Night of Worship on July 2 at 5 p.m., followed by watermelon cutting. Those who have joined in the disaster relief effort after Hurricane Katrina will be recognized. For more information, go to [www.templebaptistchurch.com](http://www.templebaptistchurch.com).



5. Bible Drill, Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



6. Bible Drill, First Church, Houston



7. Seniors, Friendship Church, Sturgis

**Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale:** Homecoming, July 9; worship 11 a.m. followed by lunch. Former pastor Roy Myers and former minister of music and youth Ben Blackwell, special guests. Greg Barker, pastor.

**Goodwater Church, Forest:** Homecoming, July 9; worship 11 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. John Adcock, speaker.

**Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto:** Homecoming, July 9; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m. followed by lunch. Robert Dunn, speaker; Richard and Dot Baker, worship leaders; David Caves, pastor.

**Moak's Creek, Bogue Chitto:** Revival, July 9-12;



Regular Sunday morning services followed by lunch and afternoon service. Jackie Spell, speaker. Micheal Alexander, pastor.

**Grace Church, Calhoun City:** Homecoming July 23; worship 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch; David Grumbach, speaker; afternoon service 1:30 p.m. Carl Morris, pastor.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. Acteens, First Church, New Albany

11. First Church, New Albany, held an Acteen Recognition Service on April 23.

12. Friendship Church, Sturgis, was recently presented with a Concord Minute Man statue and framed flag artwork for their support of the Mississippi National Guard during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Pictured are pastor Junior Davis (left) and Rodney Bowman of the 2nd 114th FA.

13. Black Jack Church, Vaughn, will host Paid in Full on July 2 at 7 p.m. Louis Smith, pastor.

14. First Church, Eupora, will host The Hoppers from Madison, N.C., and The Promised Quartet from Coila, on July 7 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (800) 327-8158, or msgospelmusic.com.



12. Davis and Bowman, Friendship Church, Sturgis

15. First Church, Baldwyn, invites everyone to a retirement reception for Gayle Alexander on Sun., July 2, 2-4 p.m. in the family life center. Alexander

pastored in Tennessee, First Church, Tupelo, and First Church, Baldwyn. For directions or questions, contact the church office at (662) 365-5201.

## COLLEGE NEWS



1. BSU group returns from mission trip to India, MC



2. BSU group returns from mission trip to Indonesia, MC

1. A student group from the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi College in Clinton recently returned from India. Much of the two week trip was spent researching social humanitarian groups.

2. A student group from the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi College in Clinton recently returned from Indonesia. Much of their two-week trip was spent teaching young students the English language and sharing cultural insights about America.



3. Malone

3. Mark Hugh Malone, dean of the Winters School of Music at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, was recently named project director of the Mississippi Arts Commission's National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces: Choral Music Grant. The thrust of the grant is to showcase the choral music of Mississippi composer William Grant Still (1895-1978), who was born near Woodville in Wilkinson County and is widely known as the "Dean of American Negro Composers."

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. French Camp Church, French Camp, averaged 50 children during the June 5-9 Vacation Bible School. Pictured are the attendees and workers. David Smith, pastor.

2. Rocky Point, Carthage, averaged 68 children during the June 5-9 Vacation Bible School. Pictured are some of the children and workers.

3. Shiloh Church, Big Creek; July 10-13, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

4. Immanuel Church, Natchez; July 10-14, from 8:30-11:45 a.m.; ages four years through sixth grade; Family Day, July 14 at noon. Adam Smith, pastor.

5. New Hope Church, Monticello, has record attendance of 145 for this summer's Vacation Bible School, with four professions of faith. A record offering of \$5,988 was given. Joey Faulk, pastor.



1. VBS, French Camp Church, French Camp

VBS

6. Concord Church, Booneville; July 10-14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Robert Walker, pastor.

7. New Hope Church, Foxworth; July 10-14 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Family Night, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.



2. VBS, Rocky Point Church, Carthage



Mississippi College





# Messengers nix proposal to alter WMU auxiliary status

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP and local reports) — A Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee recommendation to "invite" the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary to join the SBC as an agency and reaffirm its loyalty to the convention failed by a large margin in a vote by messengers on the opening day of the SBC's June 13-14 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

The Executive Committee had adopted the recommendation in a meeting the previous day by an overwhelming majority. When brought before messengers, SBC President Bobby Welch was able to declare the motion failed on a show of hands vote with no paper ballot being necessary.

The recommendation asked the 118-year-old auxiliary of the SBC to "reaffirm explicitly in [its] governing documents and promotional materials the WMU's historic, unique, and exclusive promotion of Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries" and/or "become an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention in a manner following the form of the other SBC entities and acceptable to the Convention."

The recommendation came in response to a motion at the 2005 SBC annual meeting questioning the WMU's allegiance to the SBC, which was referred to the Executive Committee.

Wanda Lee, WMU executive director/treasurer, told messengers the organization's current status as an auxiliary works well and should not be changed. She added that the WMU wants to be a promoter, not a recipient, of Cooperative Program funds.

A difficulty with the recommendation is that it would require extensive changes in

both WMU and SBC bylaws and changes in the WMU trustee-selection process, she said.

"We have had a singular purpose for all of these years, and it continues to this day — and that is missions," Lee said. "We exist for the sole purpose of equipping our churches for missions education and missions involvement."

"Also for 118 years WMU women have paid their own way. We at the national office have never been a part of the Cooperative Program allocation budget. We have been its greatest promoters, and therefore, as an auxiliary, which means helper, we desire to continue to be a promoter and not one who receives the funds."

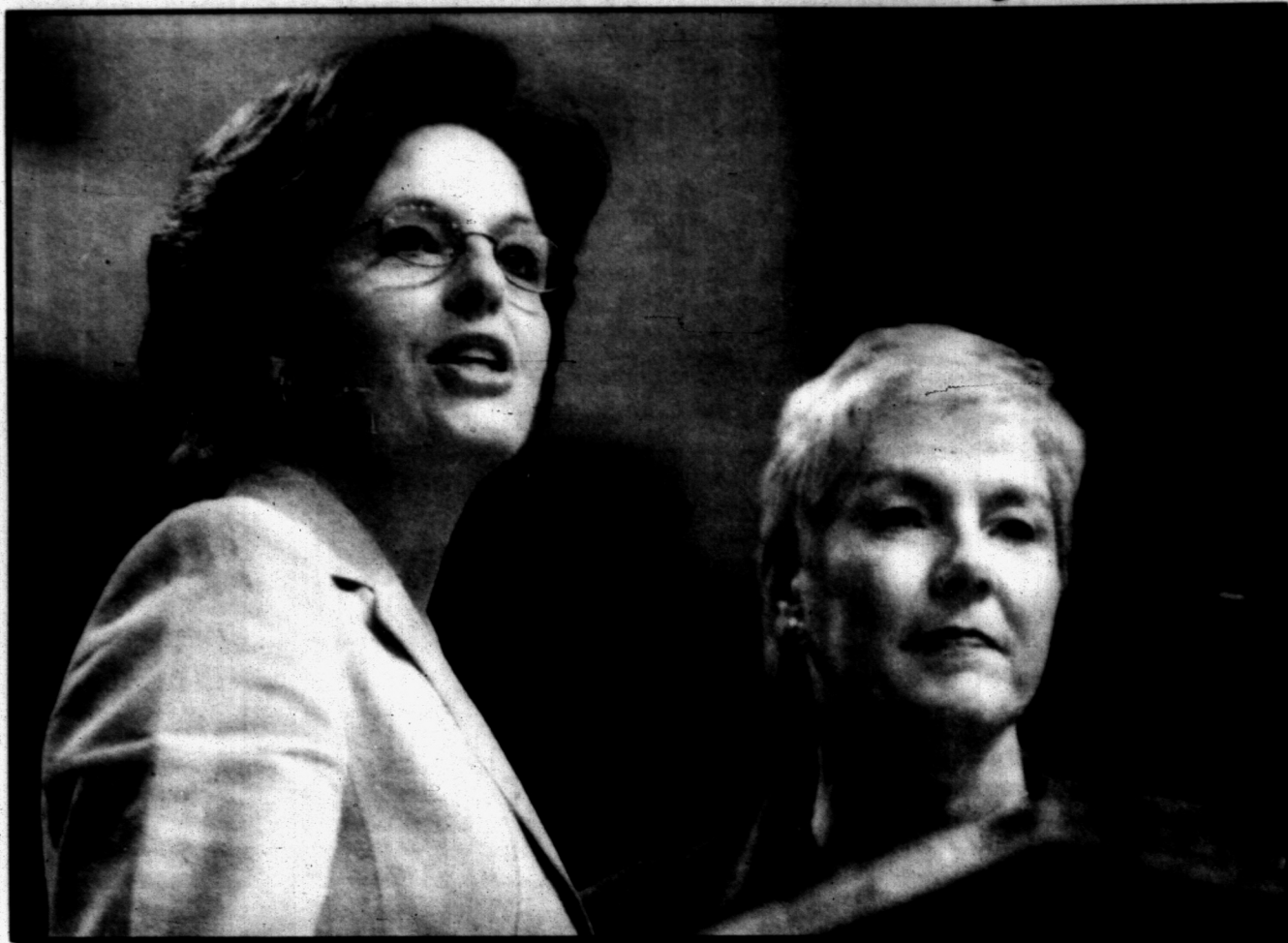
WMU President Kaye Miller urged messengers to defeat the recommendation, saying that a poll of the WMU executive board reveals that members desire to remain an auxiliary.

"We would ask that you honor our board of trustees' decision and vote no on this recommendation," Miller said.

Mike Hamlet, pastor of First North Spartanburg in Spartanburg, S.C., and chairman of the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee, told messengers the recommendation is not an attack against the WMU, but an opportunity for "openness" and "further understanding."

"No one in here should think that we are mandating to the WMU what they should do. We understand that they are an auxiliary. There was great support yesterday in [the Executive Committee] for the WMU, and yet there are questions out there that come to us from the convention, and the convention wants these questions answered," he said, adding, "We believe those questions deserve to be answered."

Joy Bolton, executive director/treasurer of the Kentucky



**DELIVERING REPORT** — Kaye Miller (left) of Little Rock, Ark., national president of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary, and Wanda Lee, WMU executive director, bring the auxiliary's report to messengers attending the June 13 session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. The pair would later return to the podium to successfully oppose a proposal from the SBC Executive Committee to "invite" WMU to join the SBC as an agency and restate its loyalty to the convention. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

WMU, spoke against the recommendation and said there is no reason to question the WMU's allegiance to the SBC.

"I invite you to come by the WMU booth, examine any piece of WMU literature," she said. "You will find that WMU teaches and promotes Southern Baptist missions from cover to cover. Come by our archives in Birmingham and examine past issues. This has always been the case and always will be."

After the vote, Lee told Baptist Press, "We greatly

appreciate the affirmation of the Southern Baptist Convention, entrusting us to do what we have been called to do for 118 years. This [convention decision] allows us to move forward without distractions as we look forward to engaging more people in missions."

Lee said in a letter read at the Executive Committee meeting that WMU values its partnership with SBC missions organizations.

"We value our Southern Baptist partners and are committed to being proactive in

strengthening relationships with them," Lee wrote. "We agree that through collaboration and coordination with our SBC mission boards, healthy partnerships would flourish and a new sense of excitement and synergy surrounding Southern Baptist missions would emerge."

Lee added that the WMU desires to remain an auxiliary of the SBC and will continue to promote the Cooperative Program along with the convention's international and North American mission offerings.

## MS POSITIONS

**HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYRAM, MISS.**, seeking paid nursery workers. Call (601) 372-0132.

**FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to Flowood Baptist Church, attn: search committee, 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232, fax: (601) 992-6393, e-mail: flobap@cdigsl.net.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS** position available at Auburn Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss. Please send resumes to Auburn Baptist Church, 1138 Road 931, Tupelo, MS 38804.

**CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL SEEKS QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL FOR DIRECTOR'S POSITION.** Individual must possess Mississippi Director's qualifications. For more information contact the Children's Office of First Baptist Church (662) 324-4970. Submit resume and references to FBC Director's Position, 106 E. Lamplin St., Starkville, MS 39759. Applications will be reviewed beginning June 30.

**CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGEE, MISS.**, is taking resumes for the position of youth minister. Please mail resumes to attention search committee, Corinth Baptist Church, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111 by August 14, 2006.

**FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE** for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christumer-ins.com.

**AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS.** www.gulfshorescondos.com. All size units available. SUMMER SPECIAL, 2 night weekend \$225, 4 week-nights \$430. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids), good 5/26 - 8/6, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

**EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH** is accepting resumes for the position of Pastor. This is a full-time position that serves a church whose average weekly attendance is 125. Eden is located in Southeast Arkansas. Deadline for receiving resumes is August 12, 2006. Please send resumes to Chairman Mike Harville 535 Ashley 81E, Hamburg, Arkansas 71646, (870) 853-8682.

**MINISTER TO CHILDREN, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CROSSETT, ARK.** Resumes to: children's search committee, First Baptist Church, 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR, 71635 or fwhite@fbccrossett.com.

**FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** First Baptist Church, Decatur, AL accepting resumes for full-time minister to first through sixth graders. Mail or email resumes to P.O. Box 1667, Decatur, AL 35602. Attn: Children's Minister or fbcdecatur@fbccdecatur.org.

**LOUIN BAPTIST CHURCH** invites you to our Centennial Celebration the weekend of October 1, 2006, call (601) 739-3707.

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC.**, serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

**MYRTLE BEACH OCEAN FRONT CONDO:** 1 queen bed, sleeper sofa, 2 bunk beds, smoke-free, pools and lazy river. Call (843) 602-0466.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS**, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

**GATLINBURG GETAWAY:** 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to park-way, \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689-9982 or pdiww@worldnet.att.net.

**CORONADO BAPTIST CHURCH**, a new fellowship, is seeking a pastor for our traditional, Kingdom-focused church. Resumes should be sent to: pastor search committee, PMB 316, 4501 N. Hy 7, Suite #8, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

**HEALTH OR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE TOO EXPENSIVE?** Call E.F. Hutton Insurance today ... We Can Help! Toll-free (877) 232-0686.

**DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time youth minister who has a passion for students and a heart for making a difference. Candidates should submit their resumes to westfam@tds.net.

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

**STUDENT MINISTER: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS** (800+ attendance) is seeking a minister with strong leadership and communication skills for student ministry (grades 7-12). Preference: two years experience in student ministry (full/part-time or intern), seminary or master's degree. Submit resume to student minister search committee at bsgwood@sbcglobal.net.

**NEW VACATION HOME IN ENNIS, MONTANA**, available for rent. Two BR, one hour from Yellowstone, 7 miles from Madison River fishing. Call (601) 924-6429.

**FOR SALE: 1987 FORD 15 PASSENGER VAN**, runs good, 90,000 miles. Lighted sign, 4x8, letters and numbers included. Bids accepted on both items. Can be seen at 2610 Napoleon Avenue, Pearl, MS 39208. For more information call (601) 939-6622 or (601) 939-3217.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY**, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

## CLASSIFIED ADS



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

At The Baptist Children's Village, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and loving environment for children in need. Our residents are the heart of our community, and we strive to provide them with the best possible care and support. We are grateful for the many friends and supporters who have helped us in our mission. Your gifts of honor and memory are a testament to your love and commitment to our children. We hope that these gifts will bring you joy and comfort, and that they will serve as a reminder of the love and care that our children receive at The Baptist Children's Village.

JUNE 1-15, 2006

### HONORS

R. W. Cantrell  
Stephen & Jennifer Cantrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Van A. Cavett, Jr.  
Mistress Harry & Jimmy Stout  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Cournoyer  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Holleman  
Ashley & Laura Lee Walters  
Mrs. Erica W. Jayroe  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mrs. Betty Lovelady  
Dr. Joe Lovelady's SSC,  
N Oxford BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lovell, IV  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Manning  
Mistress Harry & Jimmy Stout  
Mrs. Shirley Marshall  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Miss Cara Nash  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Neese  
Ms. Joyce C. Aycock  
Mr. Robert Oakes  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. Tim Pepper  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Slay  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Camille Thomas  
Ms. Linda L. Moss  
Mrs. Shirley Marshall  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe

### MEMORIALS

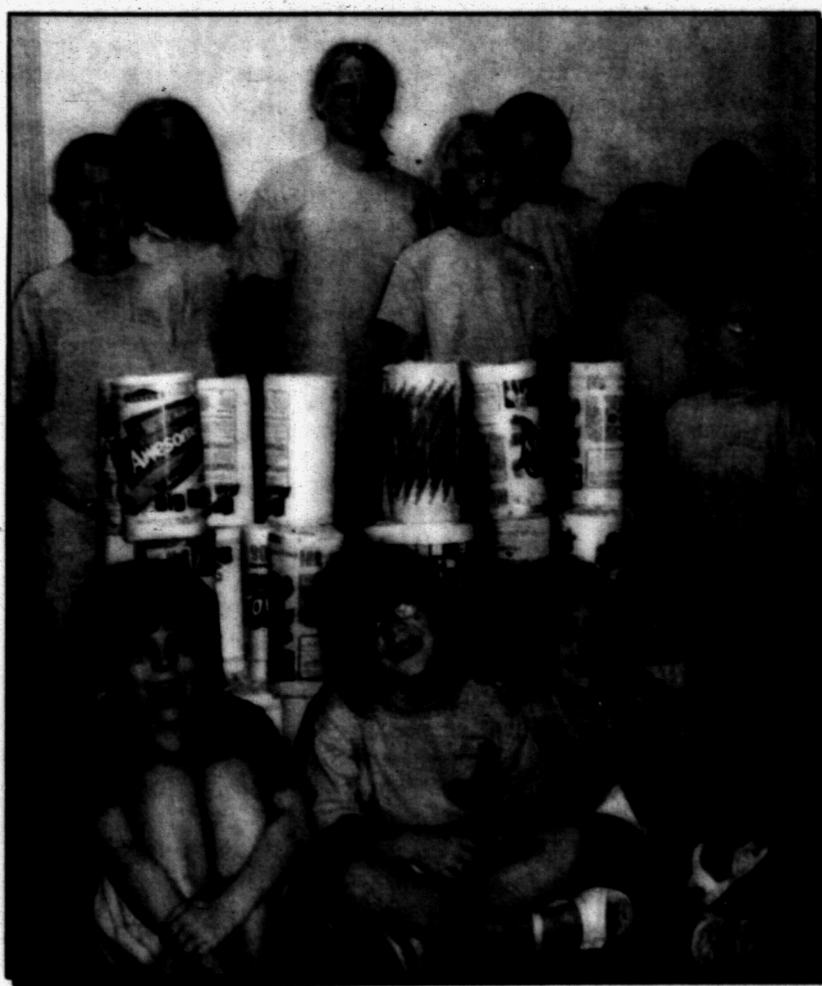
Mother of Bro. Joe Abel  
Tulola Baptist Church  
Mrs. Opel Amis  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Grenn Jr.  
Mr. Lee Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton  
D. L. Berry  
Robert C. Connor  
Terry & Gina Connor  
Lena Mae Berry  
J. W. & Gae Powell  
Mrs. Doris Blansett  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Aldridge  
Mrs. C. D. Pollan  
Carrie Brady  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Forest Breazeale  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Davis Jr.  
Mrs. Margaret Owen Brewer  
Ms Earline Woods  
Dr. H. Darney Brock  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Grenn Jr.  
Mrs. Ophelia Brown  
Mrs. Vangie Fields  
Mr. Ralph Buckley  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Ray Smith  
Mrs. Grace Burkhart  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Grenn Jr.  
Chuck Burrow  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.  
Glenn Calloway  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark  
Mr. Jerome E. Camus, Jr.  
Ms. Alice M. Dominick

Eva Cardwell  
Dr. & Mrs. Carl S. Bozeman  
Mrs. Clara L. Carter  
Union Baptist Church  
Ms. Rebekah Carter  
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Bevil  
Mr. Troy Carver  
Jimmy & Nancy Baker  
Carey Lee Canton  
Mrs. Camille C. Honea  
Pauline Chance  
Mrs. Jeri Calhoun  
Bob Clifford  
Mr. & Mrs. Grover Kyle  
Neville Conerly  
Ms. Camille S. Conerly  
Mr. James Walter Corder, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ervin Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Hubbard  
Mrs. Hazel M. Poe  
Ms. Jean W. Tucker  
Lloyd Cotton  
Ms. Dorothy S. Welsh  
Mr. Jimmy Covington  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter  
Colleen Craft  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Myatt  
Mrs. Jeannette Davis  
Ms. Sandra Mitchell  
Mrs. Ruth Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Sidney & Neddie Davis  
Ms. Jean M. Cockrell  
Marjorie Dease  
Jo & Jimmie Smithy  
Nellie Calcote Denman  
Sen. & Mrs. Richard G. White  
Gloria Ann Dennington  
Dan, Shannon & Rouse Boyce  
Mrs. Vera Dewease  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson  
Mrs. Maxine Dubard  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome  
Madison Dykes  
Ms. Karen W. Allen  
Mrs. Pat Duckworth  
Mrs. Elizabeth Dyson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brannon  
Woods Eastland  
Mrs. Pat Duckworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Eastland  
Wendy Wood Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay  
Ella Rea Errington  
J. W. & Gae Powell  
Mr. Lane Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace W. Johnson  
Mr. Marvin Farmer  
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge  
Mr. Ross Fiser  
Mrs. Marsha Jane Kenneth & Scott  
Sam S. Fisher  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Douglas Self Sr.  
Charles & Minnie Jean Risher  
E. E. Fortenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen D. Fortenberry  
Grace Gaddis  
F.E.L. SSC, Forest BC  
Wilma Walsh  
Doris Nanney  
Charles & Minnie Jean Risher  
John & Ann Roby  
Andra Tanner Gartin

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Grantham & Cindy  
Gail King Graves  
Ms. Bonnie Daughdrill  
Rhonda Gail Graves  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Reid  
Eddie Gray  
Agape SSC, Bovina BC  
Mrs. Fannie Greer  
Mrs. Hiram Davis, Jr.  
Mr. Joseph Toby Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton  
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.  
Mrs. Lois Weems Hall  
Mrs. W. T. Halford  
Leroy Hamilton  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Clayton Walker Hamric  
Miss Merle Blanton  
Calvin Harding  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. House  
Nichole Harvey  
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Vickers  
Elaine Herring  
Mr. W. B. Herring Jr.  
Mr. Eudell Hill  
The Robert Sullivan Family  
James F. (Jimmy) Howell  
Mrs. John N. Miller, Jr.  
Mrs. Peggy Davis Johnson  
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge  
Mr. Billy Mack McEachern  
Mrs. Sarah Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton  
Rev. Wardell Kennedy  
Ms. Birtie M. Kennedy  
Mr. Jimmy Kettleman  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall  
Mrs. Nellie Kimble  
Mrs. Virginia R. Blackwell  
Richard Ralph King  
Moore & Sons Building Material  
Mecia Warner Knight  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Virginia Land  
Myra Coleman  
Erma Taylor  
Brenda Wiggins  
Mrs. Vivian Langley  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall  
Alec Lee  
Ms. Dorothy S. Welsh  
Julie Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward Jr.  
Robert Winston Lovett, Jr.  
Mrs. Dora Murray  
Mr. Newel Lowe  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth K. Sullivan  
Mr. O. K. (Kenneth) Magee  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Jeannine & Carl Odom  
Laura, Sara & Andrew Royce  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell  
Mr. Robert Lee Mahon  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. Bross  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Leshe  
Dennis & Sandra Pettigrew  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Smith  
Canadian National Railway  
Employee  
Ms. Toni G. Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fortner  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Russell  
Mrs. Cleo Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay  
Ena Brown Maxwell

James & Doris Maxwell  
Kimberly Whittington McCracklin  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark  
Verda McCullough  
Gregory & Becky Greer  
Jeremy & Nicole Greer  
John Thomas & Kenyon Greer  
Legette & Letha Greer  
Mrs. Nancy S. McDowell  
Mrs. Lee Audis Jayroe  
Tim & Linda Pepper  
Braxton McKinley  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen D. Fortenberry  
Mr. John McMillian  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Humphreys  
Virginia McQueen  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip R. Hilton  
Mrs. Bobby B. Mikell  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Grenn Jr.  
Kathy Mooney  
Hope Mooney  
Mike Mooney  
Minnie Bell Moore  
Charles & Minnie Jean Risher  
Carey Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay  
John Morrow  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul N. Nunnery  
Betty Newman  
Friendship SSC, Valley Park BC  
Sharkey-Issaquena  
Homemakers Club  
Mr. John Harold Noble  
Eugene Brown's SSC,  
Ridgecrest BC  
Dot & Shelly Moore  
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert B. Tyler  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene C. Brown Sr.  
Paul & Patricia Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Grubbs  
Ms. Frances S. Myers  
Guysell & Patricia Sherman  
Ed & Charlotte Scott  
Employees at Newk's Express Cafe  
Mr. & Mrs. Mack Grubbs  
Randy Osborne  
Mike & Donna Johnson  
Lena S. Palmer  
Richie & Frances Defenbaugh  
Bobby Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Holleman  
Herschel Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Eastland  
Ouida Pearce  
Wilma Walsh  
Charles & Minnie Jean Risher  
John & Ann Roby  
George Peranich  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Holleman  
Jessica Pierce  
Sen. & Mrs. Richard G. White  
Mrs. Inez Pittman  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
R. Duvoix Price, Jr.  
Magnolia High School  
Class of 1950  
Mrs. Shirley Randall  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton  
Helen Rawls  
Mrs. Louise Allgood  
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Maggio Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Smith  
Mrs. Mabel Ray  
Spring Hill Baptist Church  
Simon L. Renfro

Miss Merle Blanton  
Mrs. Olivia Rhodes  
Mrs. Pat Duckworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom L. Moak  
Dr. James Richardson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Bevil  
Mr. Allen Robinson  
Mr. Harold G. Marx Sr.  
Bobby Sanford  
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Lord Jr.  
Jason, Son of Sandra Sherrill  
Mr. & Mrs. George Martin  
Bubba Shurden  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim D. Hardin  
Paulette Sidak  
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges  
Halle Marie & Jane Bass Smith  
Mrs. Pat Duckworth  
Joan Smith  
Ms. Dorothy S. Welsh  
Mrs. Virginia Rose Smith  
The Moody Family  
Woodrow Smith  
Mrs. Louise Allgood  
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Maggio Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Smith  
Anne Stoddard  
Agape SSC, Bovina BC  
Leona Sullivan  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Chandler Swearingen  
Jo & Jimmie Smithy  
Mary Nell Taylor  
Ms. JoAnn Sims & Family  
William Paul Terry, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Espey  
Jon Peyton Thomas  
Mrs. Sadie L. Langford  
Gladys Faye Thompson  
Mrs. Dora Murray  
Mrs. Stella Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Peebles  
Mrs. Jack Tindall  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom L. Moak  
Dianne Townsend  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Gladys Yates Trimble  
James & Doris Maxwell  
Louis H. Turner, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. J. P. Brock  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark  
Mrs. Dora Murray  
Macedonia Vera-Cerna  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Holleman  
Mrs. Blanche K. Wagner  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony A. Thomas  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Dr. W. W. Walley  
Mrs. Teresa R. Martin  
Samantha Walley  
Flora "Boots" Watts  
Jo & Jimmie Smithy  
Mr. Larry Webb, Sr.  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker  
Dr. Terry Westbrook  
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark  
Frances Droper White  
Mr. James C. Peay  
Mrs. Edna Whitehead  
Mrs. Phalby Ashley  
Mr. Robert R. Waymire  
Debbie Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. House  
Floyd Williams  
Mr. James C. Peay



Pictured are the children of Springdale BC in West and FBC Magnolia who recently collected paper products for The Baptist Children's Village during Vacation Bible School. Many other children around the state have done the same during their VBS. The BCV residents and staff THANK YOU ALL!



# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## I Will Turn to God for Help

Exodus 1:5-14; 2:23-25

By Les Colvin

This week our nation will once again celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. We can be grateful for our dependence and freedom we have as a nation.

Our relationship with God is another matter. Independence from God should never be the goal of His children. We will look at the lives of Moses and the Children of Israel and how they learned to depend on God through their struggles in Egypt and their time spent in the wilderness.

**When Relocation is Necessary (Ex. 1:5-7)**

Due to circumstances that God orchestrated, Joseph's family joined him in Egypt and settled there to live. God placed them in Egypt to protect them from the famine that would

come and to allow them to prosper and grow as he had promised.

Relocating can be very difficult. As a minister, I have certainly done my share of moving. It means starting over and walking into the unknown. It can involve new schools for the kids, finding a new home, and other experiences that can be stressful to say the least.

Relocating is tough, but it can also be necessary. I can always look back and see God's hand at work and discover how He has taught us new things and blessed us in new ways. Sometimes God has to "relocate" us to accomplish His purpose in our lives. A promise God has given me through the years when I have had to face moves and other unknown experiences is Isaiah 43:19. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up;



Colvin

do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." God often wants to do a "new thing" in our lives and give us new blessings to experience. Sometimes He has to "relocate" us to where he can accomplish His work in our lives.

**When Life Changes for the Bitter (Ex. 1:8-14)**

A new king had come on the scene in Egypt who "knew not" Joseph. As the Israelites grew and became more powerful, this new king was threatened by their size and might. In order to subdue them, he dealt very harshly with the Israelites by forcing them into hard labor. Verse 14 says he made their lives bitter. Life had become tough for God's people. Notice however in verse 12, that the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied. An important lesson for us to learn is even though life can be tough and change for the bitter, God is still in control. Once again, we can learn to trust in

God. Sometimes God allows "bitter" times to teach us dependence. It is in our sickness, not our health, that God shows that He is our healer. It is in our lack, not our abundance, that He shows that He is our provider. And, it is in our defeats, not our victories, that He shows that He is our strength.

**When Help Seems a Long Time Coming (Ex. 2:23-25)**

Another king is over Egypt and the oppression against the Israelites continues. The Israelites had suffered for years and there was no relief in sight. They moaned and cried out for help and God heard their cries and took notice. What can we learn when God is silent and it seems that there is no hope? We can certainly cry out to God as the Israelites did. We can also remember what was going on while they suffered during this long period. First, God was at work. We must not confuse the silence of God with the inactivity of God. God was preparing Moses and had a plan to bring the children out of bondage. Second, we must remember

that God was faithful to His promise. Just as He remembered His covenant with Abraham, we can trust that God will be faithful to His promise to never leave nor forsake us.

As July 4th approaches, I am reminded of a trip my wife and I took to New York City several years ago. While there, we visited the Statue of Liberty. At the base of the statue is a plaque with these famous words. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door." Those words were a message of hope to all who came to America searching for a new life. They remind me of similar words of hope our Savior says to each of us. "Give me your burdens, your questions, your grief, your pain, your sorrow." What a joy it is to know we can turn to our blessed Lord in times of need.

Colvin is Minister of Education/ Administrator at First Church, McComb.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Analyze Your Actions

Job 31:5-6, 9-10, 13-17, 24-30, 33-3

By Ginger M. Caughman

"Let God weigh me in honest scales and He will know that I am blameless; God will know my integrity," Job declares in key verses (Job 31:5-6 NIV and KJV).

Job reminds us of prophets who held God's straight plumb line for our actions (See Isaiah 28:17 and Amos 7:7-8). Pray this holiday week for repentance, forgiveness and healing in America for God has set standards in His Holy Word.

In the passages this week, Job continues his discourse, declares his innocence, his integrity, and his martial faithfulness. Job reviews his previous glory (Job 29); his present humiliation (Job 30) and protests his innocence (Job 31).

Our application this week is on practicing godly standards. We are challenged to live

according to God's ethical standards in His Holy Word. Christians must practice honesty, truthfulness, and faithfulness in our vocational, social, and martial relationships!

In Mississippi we have many still in dire circumstances due to 2005 Hurricane Katrina. Most Mississippians not directly affected have been generous and continue to prayerfully help in various practical ways. Our state convention, our churches, and many individuals have been actively helping in Jesus' name.

Today's lesson offers each of us a challenge. Answer these questions in your own heart before God. Have I been dishonest or unfaithful? Been arrogant or selfish? Turned from God? Gloated or been hypocritical?

"There is none righteous. No not one!" (Romans 3:23) We still have too much of the world



Caughman

in our churches. I include my own heart. "God's standards have been neither relaxed nor rescinded. God holds people accountable for living by His standards and will judge people by those standards. The right to pursue personal pleasure in America has become a justification for all kinds of immorality."

Southern Baptist Vance Havner (1901-1986), an evangelist, called himself "just a country preacher and a pilgrim." His 20th Century preaching is still applicable to the church today. One of his humorous stories illustrates his statement: "The religion of America is confusion."

"A man who had been a Baptist, Methodist, and a Presbyterian told his current pastor, 'I'm planning to join the Congregationalists.' Thoughtfully, the old minister replied, 'Well, I don't think it does any harm to change labels on an empty bottle!'"

"The New Testament speaks of being called Christians--there is our name. It speaks of

suffering as a Christian--it costs." ("A Treasury of Vance Havner," Grason, 1988, p.54.)

A note of encouragement for pastors and serious Christian leaders: Like Elijah after Mt. Carmel you must sometimes wonder if anyone hears or heeds the messages you faithfully prepare and deliver in the midst of a demanding ministry. A quote heard in a sermon many years ago and written on the flyleaf of an old Bible still inspires me: "Regardless of what any other Christian does, God has laid his call on you!" (Dr. Jimmie Knox, July 1975).

Vance Havner wrote his poignant book, "Though I Walk Through the Valley" (Revell, 1974), during the severe illness and death of his beloved wife Sara. He wrote beautifully, as did Job, of the presence of God with him personally. Havner speaks of that same presence in our churches and in our lives. "The one thing that distinguishes the church from any other company on earth is the presence of God with His people. It is the conscious presence of God in the life that makes a Christian a different person set apart from all others.

His Spirit goes with His people and He gives them rest." God's answer, "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest" (Ex. 33:14). (Havner, p. 36).

I have been challenged by a devotional book I recommend to you. I am up to July in "Voices of the Faithful." The devotions are written by our missionaries serving in difficult overseas assignments. Included are stories of faith, challenge, sacrifice, suffering, persecution, and victory. The long sub-title explains more: "Inspiring stories of courage from Christians serving around the world with Beth Moore and friends who put their lives on the line for God." Popular Bible teacher and speaker Beth Moore has written devotions before each month. (IMB/SBC, Integrity, 2005).

Job continues to challenge us to show compassion to all who suffer misfortune, even those hostile toward us. Let us seek to be open and honest in all our relationships and adopt and live by Godly ethical standards.

Caughman teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir at First Church, Magee.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# The Baptist Record



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### I Will Trust in God's Purpose and Power

Exodus 3:4-8a, 3:19-21, 4:10-12, 27-31

By Les Colvin

One day, a man and his son were out in the country, climbing around on some cliffs. He heard a voice from above him yell, "Hey Dad! Catch me!" He turned around to see his son joyfully jumping off a rock straight at him. He had jumped and then yelled "Hey Dad!" They became an instant circus act as they both fell to the ground. For a moment after he caught him he could hardly talk. When he found his voice again he gasped in exasperation: "Son! Can you give me one good reason why you did that?" He responded with remarkable calmness: "Sure...because you're my Dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. Isn't this even more true for us as Christians? We have a heavenly father in whom we can trust in his purpose and power.

#### God Takes Initiative to Help (Ex. 3:4-8a)

Moses has been in exile so to speak in Midian since escaping from Egypt (2:1-15). While tending his father-in-law's flock, God appears to him through the burning bush. Notice several truths about this encounter. First, God takes the initiative. God came to Moses. Moses was not seeking after God. God already had a plan and he was inviting Moses to be a part of that plan. Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God* says "God invites us to become involved with Him in His work." Second, God came to Moses while he was in exile. He was far from home, but not far from God. Third, God comes to us in the midst of our everyday lives and activities. Moses was tending flock. He wasn't at church. He wasn't in any spe-



Colvin

cial service for the Lord. He was just tending the flock. God will speak to us in the middle of the mundane. We can also see the progression of how God works in our lives. First, God comes. God speaks. God listens. And, God acts. This encounter gives us a picture of God's presence.

#### God's Power Exceeds Any Other (Ex. 3:19-21)

Moses and God have been having a conversation as to how all of this would take place. Moses didn't understand how he was going to be able to accomplish the difficult task of delivering the children of Israel out of Egypt. In verses 19-21, God assures Moses that He can accomplish this great task. We can be reminded like Paul that God's grace is sufficient and when we are weak, God is strong (2 Cor. 12:9-10). This passage demonstrates God's power.

#### God Knows How to Help (Ex. 4:10-12)

Moses is still unsure of how

he can accomplish this awesome task. He doubts his abilities. God once again assures him that he will help him do what he needs to do. What Moses and we have to learn is that when God gives us an assignment, He empowers us to carry it out. God gives us the words when we don't know what to say. He gives us strength when we don't think we can stand. He gives us comfort and encouragement when we think we can't make it. This passage shows us that we can trust God's provision for our lives. Again, we can learn from Paul when he said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

#### God Can be Believed (Ex. 4:27-31)

This last passage demonstrates God's plan. God was already preparing Aaron to also be a part of what he was doing (4:14-17). God would use Aaron to be Moses' spokesman. The two of them together would carry out God's plan to rescue His people. Moses and Aaron then went before the people and shared God's plan and performed the signs God had given

them. In verse 30, we see the response of faith by the people. First, they believed. They realized God had heard their cries, and they believed and trusted God to carry out his plan for their lives. Faith is all about believing. We can believe and trust God when He speaks. We can believe His Word. We can believe His promises. Second, they worshiped. An important part of faith in God is offering our worship to Him. When we encounter almighty God in our lives, our response should be that of worship and reverence.

Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China wrote in his autobiography "God said to me, 'I am going to evangelize China, and if you will walk with me, I will do it through you.'" It was God's power that made Hudson Taylor's ministry a success, not his individual talents. It will be God's power that will make your ministry a success - nothing you do - so stop worrying and doubting and start trusting God's power and purpose in your life.

Colvin is Minister of Education/Administrator at First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Respond Positively to God's Discipline

Job 33:13-16, 17-22; 36:8-12

By Ginger M. Caughman

"I'm doing the best I can under the circumstances." Haven't we all said those words? Consider circumstances. Vance Havner wrote, "What is a Christian doing living under circumstances? We can live above them." He wrote those words while sitting for weeks at the bedside of his wife Sara. "I wrote this on a dark day when circumstances are the worst I have ever faced. This is a testimony born of adversity. I am not under the circumstances; my life is hid with Christ in God. In that fair realm I am above all circumstances this world can devise. One day that fair realm will be my eternal abode where dear ones do not suffer or depart, hearts do not break, tears are wiped away, and circumstances cannot reach

us — for the former things (circumstances) will have passed forever away." (Havner, "Though I Walk Through the Valley," Revell, p. 17).

Some but not all suffering is sent as a discipline from God. Note the word "some." Every lesson has emphasized Job's righteousness. Then why this title? Job's suffering was not initiated as divine discipline; however Job's suffering ultimately brought him closer to God than he had been before. All experiences of suffering can lead people to reevaluate their priorities and to renew their faith. Many have given testimony to how God worked through tragic circumstances to lead them either to repentance or to insights that helped them grow spiritually. Though suffering is painful, we have a choice, "bitter or better."



Caughman

We all love the beauty and comfort of the 23rd Psalm and probably have the familiar verses memorized. "But the power is not in memorizing the words, but rather in thinking the thoughts," beloved pastor Charles L. Allen says in his classic book, "God's Psychiatry." (Revell, 1953). Dr. Allen in his role as pastor-counselor prescribed the passage many times saying, "Read the twenty-third Psalm five times a day for seven days. The power of this Psalm lies in the fact that it represents a positive, hopeful, faith approach to life." (Allen, pp. 13-14).

In all of life's experiences we want to learn from God. We need to receive God's revelation; recognize God's reasons, and respond to God's reprimand. God's discipline is redemptive. Job had complained that God was not answering him (31:35-37) Elihu (ih LIGH'hyoo) speaks and rebukes Job for not noticing how God was speaking.

Elihu says: "God is greater than man! For God does speak

— now one way, now another — though man may not perceive it." (33:12, 14). We need to be sensitive to both the usual and unusual ways God may speak to us. Remember, "God is always at work around us!" (Henry Blackaby)

Elihu expresses the same flawed idea held by Job's three friends (36:11). Though the view has truth, it is incomplete. God blesses all who repent and obediently serve Him but Christians are not exempt from life's trouble.

Elisabeth Elliot wrote a stunning book, "On Asking God Why: And Other Reflections on Trusting God in a Twisted World" (Revell, 1989). "I have done the obvious things. Prayer is first, asking God to do what I can't do. The second thing is to get busy and do what I can do. And one more thing: I seek the lessons God wants to teach me." (Elliot, pp. 17-19).

Elisabeth then addresses our current topic of Job and God's discipline. "The Psalmist often questioned God, and so did Job. God did not answer the questions, but he answered the

man — with the mystery of Himself." (Elliot, p. 18).

"God has not left us entirely in the dark. We know a great deal more about His purposes than poor old Job did, yet Job trusted Him. He is not only the Almighty (Job's favorite name for God), God is my Father. What a father does is not always understood by the child. God does have ultimate good in mind for me, and absolutely nothing, is useless in the fulfillment of that purpose if I'll trust Him and submit to the lessons." (Elliot, p. 18).

"God disciplines us for our good that we may share His holiness. That is a strong clue to the explanation we are always seeking. God's purpose for us is holiness — His own holiness which we are to share — and the sole route to that end is discipline." (Elliot, p. 18). This week's lesson encourages us to respond positively to God's discipline and repent when necessary. Let us serve our Lord obediently and faithfully!

Caughman teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir at First Church, Magee.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# Record



# Greensboro gathering posts new resolutions record

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — Messengers offered more than 25 motions during the opening day of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 13-14 in Greensboro, N.C., proposing actions related to young Christian leaders, the planning and conducting of future SBC meetings and the initiation of possible studies by the SBC Executive Committee.

The total motions submitted probably set a new record, observers noted.

Ryan Stiffler, pastor of First Church in Appleton City, Mo., moved that the Committee on Nominations appoint at least one pastor under age 40 "to each of our committees and boards, including the Executive Committee." The motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee to report back to the 2007 convention to be held in San Antonio, Texas.

A motion by Andrew Higginbotham of Oconee Heights Church in Athens, Ga., asked that "the newly-formed Missional Network, which represents in part the next generation of leaders in the SBC" be scheduled for report times during future SBC annual meetings. The motion was ruled as not in order after an explanation by Allan Blume, chairman of the committee on the order of business.

"Not only did the committee consider this motion to be more of a nature of a resolution," said Blume, pastor of Mount Vernon Church in Boone, N.C., "but the motion seeks a convention-reporting opportunity, which is reserved for SBC corporate entities and auxiliaries."

One motion raised concerns about the impact of the "emergent church movement" among Southern Baptists. Ryan Johnson, youth pastor of First Church in Birmingham, Ala., cautioned that the movement is "becoming more and more influential in our day and in the practices of certain denominational entities. ... Some Southern Baptist leaders are drifting dangerously close to identifying the SBC with this movement."

Johnson's motion proposed the appointment of a committee to research the movement, its trends and its impact on the SBC. He also asked that an appointed committee define "any involvement SBC entities would have in [the movement]." The proposal was referred to the Executive Committee.

## SBC meetings

Several motions proposed changes for the planning and conduct of future SBC annual meetings.

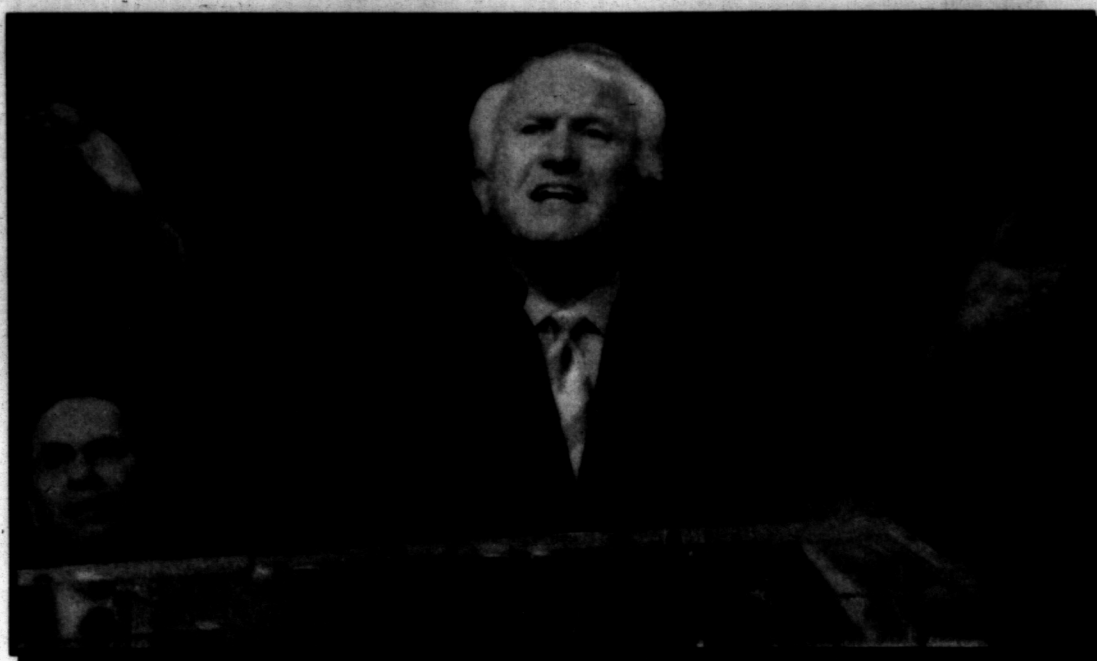
A motion by Robert Kelley, pastor of Raleigh Road Church in Henderson, N.C., proposed each annual meeting include 15 minutes for praise, confession, and prayer by messengers. Blume said the committee will retain Kelley's motion and take it into consideration when the agenda is planned for next year's meeting.

Six other motions related to future meetings all were referred to the Executive Committee:

- that the 2008 annual meeting be held in New Orleans, submitted by David Crosby, pastor of First Church in New Orleans.

- that the Executive Committee "formulate and publicize appropriate plans of action in the event that the SBC annual meeting cannot be held" because of a pandemic or some other disaster, submitted by Stephen Parks, director of missions of Unity Association in Lufkin, Texas, and messenger from First Church, Lufkin.

- that convention bylaws be amended to allow for the submission



LEADING AT SBC — Larry Black, retired minister of music at First Church, Jackson, leads messengers to the 2006 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Greensboro, N.C., in a rendition of God Bless America, which broke out spontaneously after an address by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Black is presently serving as interim minister of music at First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., and brought the church's choir to Greensboro to support their pastor, Bobby Welch, who was outgoing SBC president. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

of resolutions by messengers on the first day of the annual meeting, submitted by Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Church in Buena Park, Calif.

- that convention bylaws be amended to allow for a simple majority vote, instead of 2/3

- to overrule the Committee on Order of Business or the Resolutions Committee, two motions submitted by Rodney Albert, pastor of Hallsville (Mo.) Church.

- that the "Executive Committee work closely with each year's Local Arrangements Committee to vastly improve accessibility accommodations at the Annual Convention," submitted by Jerilyn Leverett of Wesleyan Drive Church, Macon, Ga.

Leverett also offered a motion to request the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to employ a "person with a disability to accelerate disability awareness, action and accessibility and outreach" by Southern Baptist churches. The motion was referred to NAMB.

## Executive Committee

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee were:

- that the Executive Committee determine a "church's total giving to Southern Baptist missions causes" by including gifts through the Cooperative Program as well as funds provided for mission trips, church planting, disaster relief, and designated offerings for SBC entities and "any other legitimate Southern Baptist causes," submitted by Wayne Dorsett, pastor of Westside Church in Warner Robins, Ga.

- that bylaws be amended to require convention officers be chosen from churches that give 10% "through the Cooperative Program and the local Baptist association," submitted by Bill Fowler, pastor of First Church in Pleasanton, Texas.

- that bylaws be amended to allow for trustees and directors of SBC entities to serve a single seven-year term, submitted by Barrett M. Lampp, associate pastor at Thomasville Road Church in Tallahassee, Fla.

- that the Executive Committee conduct an "administrative expense analysis" of all SBC entities receiving CP funds,

"including but not limited to the reimbursable expense accounts, travel expenses, housing and office expenses and ... dollars spent ... to maintain the private residences and staff of those entity executives," submitted by Ernest Hallmark of Parkview Church in Arlington, Texas.

- that the Executive Committee "complete a comprehensive study of the makeup and function" of all SBC entity boards, submitted by Everett Anthony of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga.

- that bylaws be amended to require a vote at the next annual meeting on "any doctrinal position or practical policy" of an SBC entity that "goes beyond, or seeks to explain ... the Baptist Faith and Message 2000," with revocation of the policy or position if not approved by messengers, submitted by Boyd Luter of First Church in Fairfield, Texas.

- that the Executive Committee establish a committee to study the impact of Calvinism on Southern Baptists and to recommend any necessary actions, submitted by John S. Connell, senior pastor of Calvary Church in Savannah, Ga.

## Other referrals

One motion was referred both to NAMB and the International Mission Board (IMB): that a study committee be appointed to consider ways that IMB and NAMB "may work in greater partnership and harmony" due to "the increasingly difficult discernment of the differences between domestic and 'foreign' mission fields," submitted by Glynn N. Stone, Jr., pastor, West Rome Church, Rome, Ga.

## International Mission Board

- that the Executive Committee appoint a committee to investigate various trustee-related issues listed in the motion, which was made by Wade Burleson, an IMB trustee and pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla. During debate, Burleson spoke in favor of a recommendation by the Committee on Order of Business to refer the matter to the IMB, which messengers subsequently approved.

- that the IMB have an audit of "all funds handled by the IMB/Central Asia Region for the years 1999-2005," with

the motion claiming an internal audit in 2002-03 "at best could only account for \$372,831.62 of embezzled monies," submitted by Ron McGowin, associate pastor to youth and recreation at First Church in Fairfield, Texas.

## LifeWay Christian Resources

- that LifeWay "investigate and report" to the 2007 annual meeting on a "growing body of research" that indicates the majority of children from evangelicals do not stay in church as they enter adulthood, the majority of evangelical Christians do not have a "defined Biblical worldview" and "a growing carnality within evangelical churches [and] ... the percentage of unregenerate church members," submitted by Roger Moran of First Church in Troy, Mo.

- that a LifeWay Christian Store be placed in Phoenix since "the people of Arizona have been paying sales tax on all LifeWay orders since LifeWay has a license to sell in Arizona, but [does] not have a store," submitted by Tim Brown, pastor of Blythe Island Church, Brunswick, Ga.

## GuideStone

One motion was referred to GuideStone Financial Resources: that a study be made of "the feasibility of allowing members of Southern Baptist churches to participate in the financial and insurance products of GuideStone," submitted by Gary Smith, pastor of Fielder Road Church in Arlington, Texas.

## Not in order

Six other motions were ruled as not in order:

- that the new SBC president write a letter to the New Life Community Church in Prunedale, Calif., "retracting the letter of affiliation granted by" Executive Committee staff, submitted by Mike Stewart, director of missions of the Central Coast Association in Gilroy, Calif., and messenger from Foothill Church, Los Altos, Calif.

- that all candidates for SBC president and other offices "demonstrate both verbally and financially" strong CP support, submitted by John D. Carl, pastor of First Church in Whitney, Texas.

- that the newly elected SBC president send a letter of thanks to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for allowing churches "to continue offering shelter and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the homeless" and that a law firm involved in the case also be affirmed, submitted by Wiley Drake.

- that the "new United States Christian Flag, also known as Beauty and Band" be recognized and adopted by messengers, submitted by Harold M. Phillips, pastor of Pleasant View Church in Port Deposit, Md.

- that the SBC "refrain from using the word 'gay' when referring to homosexuals in sermons, publications and in the media" and that Baptist pastors and those in other denominations be asked to do the same, submitted by William I. Gay Jr. of Winterville (N.C.) Church.

- that the Executive Committee "request the chairman and executive committee" of the IMB to reinstate trustee Wade Burleson "to full duties and responsibilities of a duly-elected trustee," submitted by Clif Cummings, pastor of First Church in Duncan, Okla.